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*Commissioner of Health*



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date:** November 9, 2012

**Contact:** Barbara Ilardi, Public Information Officer, 845-808-1390

**MRC VOLUNTEERS HONORED AT ANNUAL DINNER,  
DEPLOYED DAYS LATER DURING HURRICANE SANDY**

**MRC Recruitment Continues for Key Roles**

Dozens of Putnam County Medical Reserve (MRC) volunteers and supporters gathered for the Annual MRC Dinner Meeting on Wednesday, October 24, celebrating the work they do in support of Putnam County's existing emergency response infrastructure. Just six days later Hurricane Sandy barreled in and they were called into action, deployed at shelters in Mahopac and Putnam Valley.

The dinner, organized by the Putnam County Department of Health and held at the Centennial Grill Room in Carmel, served to recognize the important contributions MRC volunteers make to the health and welfare of the County's residents. Judy Homer, RN, the New York State Volunteer Coordinator for the ServNY Volunteer Program, presented the keynote address, highlighting the extraordinary statewide volunteer response in the wake of last year's Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee.

Hurricane Sandy hit harder, particularly in New Jersey, New York City and Putnam County, rendering many MRC volunteers without power themselves. Nevertheless the volunteers

## **MEDICAL RESERVE CORP VOLUNTEERS, page 2**

were instrumental in establishing and staffing shelters for others left without power. Their selfless dedication served a subtle reminder of the words shared by Allen Beals, MD, Commissioner of Health, when he quoted Winston Churchill at the dinner, thanking the volunteers for their self-sacrifice and service: “We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give.”

Volunteers, both non-medical and medical, continue to be needed for Putnam County’s MRC. Interpreters, amateur radio operators and chaplains are just a few examples of needed personnel. Pharmacists, infectious disease specialists, dentists and veterinarians, as well as additional physicians, nurses, mental health professionals and emergency medical responders, are also being recruited. Interested residents can find out more information by visiting the Putnam County website or calling Keiren Farquhar, the MRC coordinator at 845-808-1390, x43136.

The Health Department’s mission is to improve and protect the health of the county’s nearly 100,000 residents through prevention of illness and injury. Core services include community health assessment, disease surveillance and control, environmental health protection, family health promotion and health education. For more information, please visit our website at [www.putnamcountyny.com](http://www.putnamcountyny.com); or visit our social media sites on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/putnamhealth](http://www.facebook.com/putnamhealth) and Twitter @PutnamHealthNY.

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### **TWO PHOTOS are ATTACHED (high res JPEGs):**

**Photo 1-MRC Volunteers:** From left, MRC volunteers Vicki Maxino, RN; Nona Malaquit, RN, and Chris Malaguit, RN, were among the dozens of MRC volunteers being honored at the 2012 Dinner Meeting on October 24, 2012.

**Photo 2-Farquhar:** Keiren Farquhar, Coordinator of Putnam County’s MRC introduces Judy Homer, RN, New York State Volunteer Coordinator for the ServNY Volunteer Program.

**Additional photos available upon request (see next page).**

**PHOTOS (high res) are AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST:**

**Photo #3:** Sergeant Frank Christian, from the Putnam County Sheriff's Department, above, joined Thomas Lannon, Director of Putnam County's Emergency Management and Information Technology, to address the volunteer corps and provided practical information about home and workplace safety.

**Photo #4:** MRC volunteer Martin Miller, a retired educator, and Putnam County's Adam Stiebeling, Acting Commissioner, Bureau of Emergency Services, were among the guests.

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